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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087576

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 3864 (KARACHI 1851) DATED APR 19:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3864

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD FROM KARACHI 19 APR
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1851

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN SIND

1. A TRANSPORM WORKERS STRIKE CALLED FOR APRIL 19 WAS CALLED OFF. NEITHER THE PNA NOR THE STUDENTS ACTION COMMITTEE HAD BACKED THE STRIKE CWUL AND AD UNDERSTAND THAT THE PARACHI PNA ASKED THAT THE STRIKE BE CANCELLED SO AS NOT TO DETRACT FROM THE MAJOR PLA PROCESSION SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 PM TODAY. THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL MAZDOOR ALLIANCE ACTION COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD CALLED THE STRIKE, COMPLIED AND THEN MERGED ITSELF INTO THE PNA.
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2. SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING THE PRESS, REPORT THAT THE PNA HAS ISSUED A CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE BEGINNING APRIL 20. THIS CALL IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ISSUED NOT ONLY IN KARACHI BUT ALSO IN LAHORE, HYDERABAD, LYALLPUR AND MULTAN AMONG OTHER CITIES. THE PRO-PPP PROCESSION OF SINDHI FISHERMEN AND PEASANTS IS STILL ON FOR THE 20TH,

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GAMBWANC REPORTS. SLATED FOR MALIR, IT HOPEFULLY WILL
NOT BECOME ENTANGLED WITH PNA ACTIVITIES.

3. ELSEWHERE ON THE LABOR FRONT, THE STRIKE OF PIA FLIGHT
DECK PERSONNEL CONTINUES. THE KESC WORKERS ARE DOWN-
ING TOOLS TWO HOURS PER DAY IN SUPPORT OF THEIR
DEMANDS, BUT THERE IS DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE A POWER
SHUTDOWN BECAUSE THE PNA REPORTEDLY FEELS THAT THIS
MIGHT SO IRRITATE THE PUBLIC AS TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE
FOR ITS CAUSE. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO MOVEMENT UPCOUNTCZ
OF TRUCKS CARRYING GENERAL CARGO OR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.
THIS STOPPAGE IS VARIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE REPORTED
INABILITY OF STORAGE FACILITIES UPCOUNTRY TO RECEIVE THE
GOODS, TO SUPPOSED THREATS OF MASSIVE HIJACKING, AND TO
THE DRIVERS' DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT OF THE PNA.
MANY IF NOT MOST OF THE LABOR DISPUTES AND ACTIONS NOW
CROPPING OUT STEM FROM GENUINE INDUSTRIAL GRIEVANCES
BUT THEY ARE BEING PUT FORWARD AT THIS TIME APPARENTLY
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CLIMATE OF UNREST AND TO AID
THE CAUSE OF THE PNA.

4. PROCESSIONS TOOK PLACE IN THE USUAL SIND CITIES
YESTERDAY. THE TURNOUT WAS LARGE IN KARACHI, INCLUDING
A BIG AUDIENCE FOR GENERAL NIAZI. ALTHOUGH MOST
DEMONSTRATIONS IN KARACHI WERE PEACEFUL, SEVERAL PPP
OFFICES AND A BUS WERE SET AFIRE. THE PRO-PPP STUDENTS
MARCHED AGAIN YESTERDAY AND TOWARDS THE END OF THEIR
DEMONSTRATION WERE ENGAGED IN A STONE THROWING FIGHT
BY PRESUMED PNA SUPPORTERS. THERE WERE INJURIES BUT
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REPORTEDLY NONE OF THEM SERIOUS. IN HYDERABAD THERE
WERE MORE SEVERE CLASHES BETWEEN THE RIVAL GROUPS.
THE ADMISSION OF EIGHT PERSONS TO HOSPITAL WITH KNIFE
OR BULLET WOUNDS IS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND WE HAVE AN
UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT THREE STUDENTS WERE KILLED.
PRO-PNA MEMONSTRATORS ARE REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO
HAVE STONED ARMY TROOPS IN HYDERABAD.

5. THERE IS NO SIGN OF SOFTENING OF THE PNA POSITION IN
KARACHI INEITHE WAKE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S FORTHCOMING
GESTURES WITH REGARD TO PROHIBITION AND ISLAMIC LAW.
MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT HIS ATTEMPT TO CURRY FAVOR
WITH THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES FAILED, AND THAT HIS OVERTURES
TO THE OPPOSITION ARE VIEWED AS NOT ONLY TOO LITTLE AND
TOO LATE BUT AS IRREMAVANT TO THE PRESENT SITUATION.
THE PNA LINE TO ITS SUPPORTERS IN KARACHI IS TO KEEP
THE PRESSURE ON BUT TO AVOID VIOLENCE. INSTRUCTIONS
ARE TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS WITH PPP ELEMENTS. (THE
DAILY ATTACKS ON PPP PREMISES ARE EXPLAINED AS

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UNDISCIPLINED DEPARTURES FROM PNA POLICY.) APPARENTLY
THE LOCAL PNA LEADERSHIP BELIEVES THERE IS SOME DANGER
OF THE PUBLIC COMING TO BLAME THE PARTY INSTEAD OF THE
AUTHORITIES FOR THE PERSISTENT DISRUPTION OF NORMAL LIFE
UNLESS THE PARTY ESCHEWS VIOLENCE.

6. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO QUANLIFY THEM AT THIS POINT, BUT
INFLATIONARY PRESSURES CLEARLY ARE GROWING AND BECOMING
A WORRY TO MANY OBSERVERS. PRICES OF GOODS AT RETAIL
HAVE RISEN. THE DECLINE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DURING
THIS PROLONGED PERIOD OF UPSET IS BOUND TO HAVE ITS EFFECT,
AS IS THE RECURRENT INTERRUPTIONOF THE FLOW OF GOODS
THROUGH THE PORT. PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY INEVITABLY
HAVE DECREASED. THE INCREASED PAY FOR GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY BY PIRZADA IS VIEWED
BY MOST AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES,
NOT A CURE FOR THEM. IN AN IRONIC TWIST, THE BAN ON
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NIGHT CLUBS, GAMBLING AND ALCOHOL THREATENS TO PUT MANY
PEOPLE OUT OF WORK. SOME ESTIMATE THAT THESE INDUSTRIES
PROVIDED AS MANY AS 100 THOUSAND JOBS COUNTRY-WIDE.
THEY ALSO PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL REVENUE TO THE SIND
GOVERNMENT.

7. THE PRESS APRIL 19 CARRIED A RELEASE FROM G.M.
SYED'S JEEAY SIND (LONG LIVE SIND) ORGANIZATION VOICING
SUPPORT FOR PNA DEMANDS, THOUGH GAMBWANI ASSERTS THAT
MOST OF THE MEMBERS ARE IN FACT PRO-PPP.
MOORE UNQUOTE
BYROADE UNQTE VANCE

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